

in a smaller size with blue paper covers which preceded them. The present Catalogue is devoted to the very interesting family of the Cicadidæ, which includes the largest species of the suborder Homoptera, but which is entirely unrepresented in the British Islands, except by a single rare and local species, found chiefly in the New Forest.

The loud stridulation of many of the foreign species is a great feature of forest life abroad; and even in Greece the Cicada's "song" has been famous from classical times onwards.

Mr. Distant has long been one of the leading authorities on this family, having published a 'Monograph of Oriental Cicadidæ' as long ago as 1889, and having also included it in the third volume on Rhynchota in the 'Fauna of British India,' published during the present year.

The Catalogue before us extends to 188 pages, exclusive of Index, which fills 19 pages in triple columns. The number of genera admitted is 179, and, besides the full synonymy, useful tables are given of the genera in each division.

The enormous increase in entomological literature renders the frequent publication of monographs and catalogues (which are as grammars and dictionaries) indispensable to working entomologists; and we cannot have too many of them, provided they are written by men well up in their subject and are fairly complete and up to date.

Opinions on details differ; but there are three particulars in which we think Mr. Distant's book might have been improved. First, we think that the species under each genus should have been numbered as well as the genera. Secondly, the species contained in the Natural History Museum should have been marked, and all names the types of which are included in the series should have been specially indicated. Thirdly, we find a list of undetermined species at the end of the book; but we should have preferred to see all these, except those absolutely unrecognizably described without figures, assigned to their probable places, if necessary with a query. In the case of Walker's species not in the Museum, the types perhaps still exist in other British collections.

We do not make these remarks as criticisms, but as suggestions, and have no hesitation in recommending Mr. Distant's work as absolutely indispensable to all students of the Cicadidæ.

W. F. K.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Locusts in Hungary.

It is stated in a morning paper to-day that locusts are committing ravages in some parts of Hungary. I should be much obliged to some Hungarian entomologist if he would kindly send me specimens for identification.

W. F. KIRBY.

Natural History Museum,
S. Kensington, London,
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